

Message Text

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POUCHED FOR INFO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

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SUBJECT: ENERGY: FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL ENERGY CONFERENCE: ELECTRICAL
GENERATION

1. DURING COURSE OF JANUARY 23 MORNING SESSION OF FEDERAL-
PROVINCIAL ENERGY CONFERENCE, ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD
CALLED FOR STRENGTHENED REGIONAL ELECTRICAL INTERCONNECTIONS
TO ENABLE UTILITIES TO ASSIST EACH OTHER IN TIMES OF SHORTAGE
AND TO STABILIZE COST OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY BY ACCESS TO
SOURCES NOT DEPENDENT ON FOSSIL FUEL.

2. MACDONALD OUTLINED FOLLOWING FRAMEWORK UNDER WHICH GOC
WOULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AT PROVINCIAL INITIATIVE IN STUDY
OF REGIONAL INTERCONNECTIONS AND CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES:

(A) COST SHARING OF UP TO 50 PERCENT WILL BE CONSIDERED BY
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR APPROVED STUDIES OF INTER-
CONNECTION FACILITIES;

(B) IN CASES WHERE THE FINANCING ABILITY OF A PROVINCE
OR UTILITY IS INADEQUATE, FEDERAL FINANCING IN THE FORM
OF LOANS AT CROWN CORPORATION RATES WILL BE
CONSIDERED FOR AMOUNTS UP TO 50 PERCENT OF THE CAPITAL
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COST OF THE APPROVED PROJECTS;

(C) FOR APPROVAL, PROJECTS MUST BE SHOWN TO BE CAPABLE OF ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION IN THE LONG RUN WITHOUT CONSIDERATION OF THE EFFECTS OF FEDERAL ASSISTANCE, OR MUST BE DIRECTLY ASSOCIATED WITH A PROGRAM OR PROGRAMS RELATED TO ENERGY CONSERVATION, SECURITY OF ENERGY SUPPLY, OR REGIONAL RATIONALIZATION OF ENERGY CRISIS.

3. MACDONALD CONCLUDED THAT IN PROGRAMS INVOLVING FEDERAL PARTICIPATION SPECIAL ATTENTION WOULD BE GIVEN TO "EXPLOITING THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY INTER-CONNECTION PROJECTS FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT WITHIN CANADA OF IMPROVED EQUIPMENT AND ENHANCED ENGINEERING SKILLS."
SCHMIDT

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